

Cartrophen

VET
THE DISEASE MODIFYING OSTEOARTHRITIS DRUG



Just to introduce me again—my name is Janis Apse. I graduated from Ontario Veterinary College in 1966.

I now provide the technical advice for Cartrophen Vet and am the principal in Arthrofarm Services which distributes Cartrophen in Canada.

Over the almost twenty years we have distributed Cartrophen, we have had many questions regarding Cartrophen ranging all the way from those that I have answered in the video about treatment of dogs with arthritis to use of Cartrophen in rabbits and other animals.

All of the uses other than in dogs are off label uses. This means that Cartrophen has not been approved for use in animals other than dogs.

Nevertheless, here are some of the various questions that we have had occasion to answer. Most of them come from veterinarians and some from pet owners. At all times we advise the pet owners that it is one thing for us to discuss their pet with them and quite another for the owner to seek advice from the veterinarian. The latter has seen the animal and assessed it and this first hand advice is much more valuable and more likely correct than simply coming from us to the pet owner.

One of the most frequent questions relates to cats and the use of Cartrophen for arthritis and interstitial cystitis. With respect to arthritis, our advice is that the dosage should be carefully calibrated and given at 3mg/kg body weight with the same regimen as for dogs (4 injections one week apart followed by repeat single injections as often as required based on the veterinarians' advice).

Interstitial cystitis is a difficult diagnosis to make and often it is arrived at by elimination. Once it has been determined that other treatments do not work, then Cartrophen has been tried sometimes with good success. It is a long term therapy so after the initial 4 injections, injections should be repeated at intervals no less than two months apart for as many as 12 months. If improvement occurs, the injections should be carried on for at least two months after the improvement. It should be emphasized that this is a difficult condition to treat and in man, efficacy is at best modest. Treatment is long term but response when it occurs is very gratifying for the pet and the owner.

Increasingly, questions have been asked about the use of Cartrophen in horses. Again it is an off label use here in Canada. The regimen basically involves 2mg/kg once a week for 4 weeks followed up as necessary. The injection is intramuscular. Improvement can be quite dramatic and there is a temptation to put the horse to work right away. Our best advice is to strictly follow the veterinarians instructions.

The Australians who make the drug have conducted safety studies to be able to advise veterinarians on the safety. Cartrophen Forte has been approved in Australia and New Zealand for use in horses.

Questions have come about the use of Cartrophen in zoo animals. The advantage is compliance in that there is an injection and dosage is thus assured. In addition there are no side effects requiring testing such as occurs with NSAIDs. The dosage is again based on weight.

As we have advised, there is no stability data on storage in syringes and we advise against it.

Leaving even an opened vial out for a few days at room or even 30 degree temperatures does not affect the efficacy or stability. Unopened vials can be left out even longer. Nevertheless refrigerated storage is the safest.

If a pet owner is to be given instructions for use along with Cartrophen for their administration to their pet, dosage instructions are very important. Giving a dose over and above the recommended dose can lead to problems. Pet owners have accidentally overdosed by as much as 5 or 6 times and this can be dangerous.

We sell the product only to veterinary distributors and to veterinarians because it requires a prescription in Canada. It is not available for sale in the US so we have to apply for a special permit from the US FDA. There is a specified procedure that we follow and it requires a veterinarians' signature.

By the way, the French version of the website is now available.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that Cartrophen is not an NSAID nor is it a hydrocortisone. It is made from plant origin (beech) extract and contains no animal tissues.

We are always interested in the views, comments and advice of pet owners and veterinarians. I hope that the information in this brief overview has been helpful and you may always call us on our toll free line or visit our website cartrophen.ca